PATENT

DOCKET NO.: VERT-0003 Application No.: 10/087,363 Office Action Dated: June 17, 2004

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig(s) 1-23. In particular, reference numerals, corresponding to those added to the specification, have been added to the respective figures. The sheet(s), which includes Fig(s) 1-23, replaces the original sheet(s) including Fig(s) 1-23.

Attachment: replacement sheet(s)

Neutral Tandem (Sustomers

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Level (3) The Network Partner You Can Rely On.

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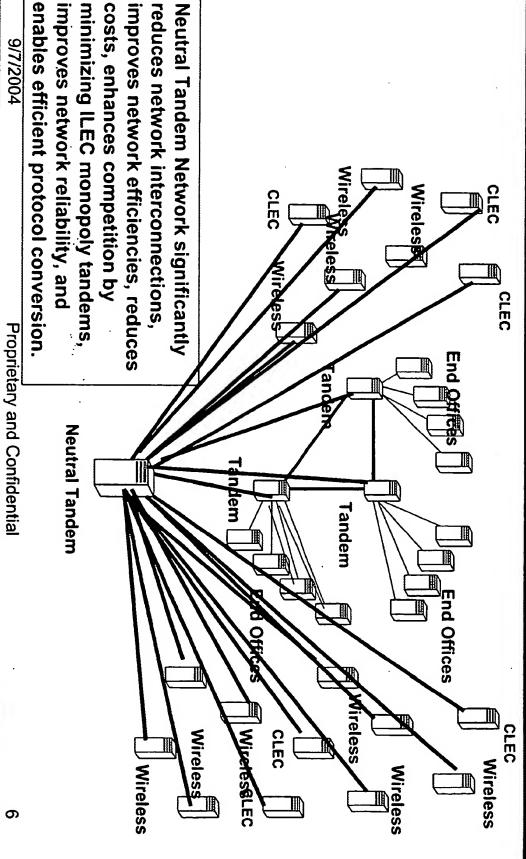
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Newtal Tandem Network

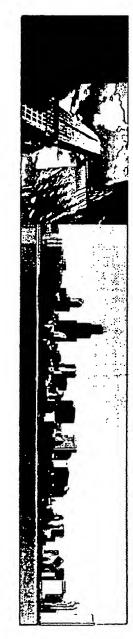
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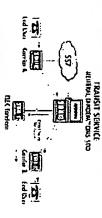


Eutral Tandem Marketing

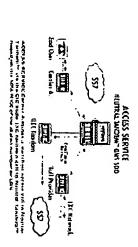


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Capacity

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Call 1 80 NGUTRAL1 (1886-388-7251).

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Neutral: Technically independent, not part of a

proprietary network (i.e., with end users)

Tandem: together in a chain using private line achieved by linking several locations connectivity between circuits is circuits.* A physical network topology where

Network: An integrated platform consisting of switch(es) and circuits overlaying ILEC and competitive carrier switches

* Newton's Telecom Dictionary 1998

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Neutral Tandem Vs. Prior Art

Features*	Neutral Tandem	Prior Art
Independent Network (not part of proprietary network or competitor)	Yes	No
Single Point of Connection	Yes	No
Multiple Protocols (e.g., TDM/IP, Ethernet)	Yes	No
Various Interfaces—"Fat Pipes" (DS3, OC3)	Yes	No
Mix Traffic Types Over Connections (e.g., Local, LD)	Yes	No
Includes Transport with Tandem Switching (i.e, complete network)	Yes	No .
Interconnects Public and Private Carriers	Yes	No O

^{*} Not exhaustive

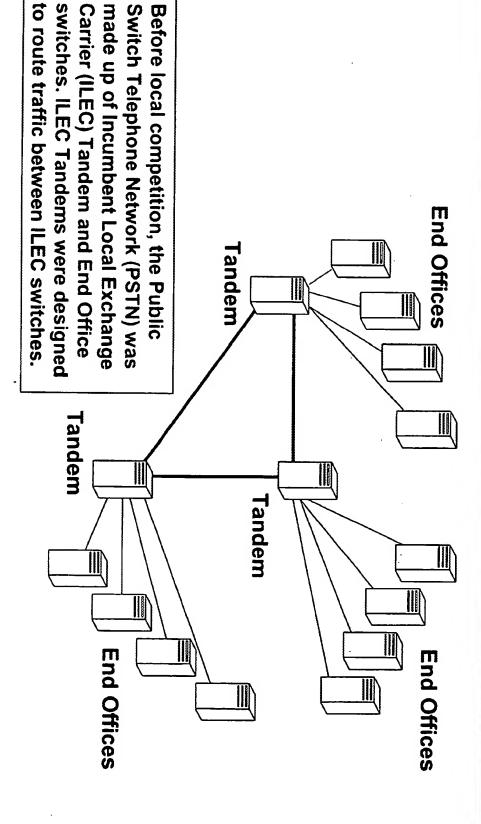
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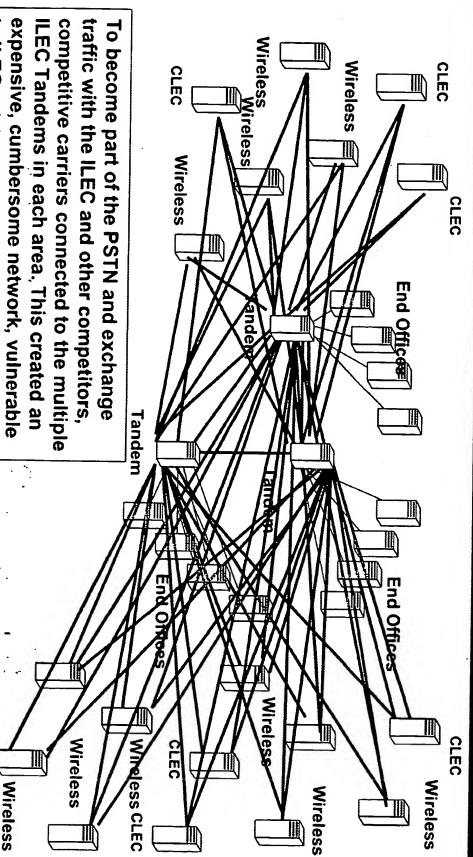
ILEC Tandem Network (Prior Art)



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Current ILEC Tandem Network



expensive, cumbersome network, vulnerable to ILEC pricing, limitations, and outages.

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